

STATE SENATOR • DEBORAH CHERRY • 26TH DISTRICT

Cherry Press Release

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Gov. Granholm Signs Cherry Electronic Testimony Bill

(LANSING) – State Senator Deborah Cherry (D-Burton) sponsored legislation that Governor Jennifer Granholm signed into law today. The new law allows expert testimony in preliminary trials to be video taped or delivered over the telephone.

Gov. Granholm recognized the lasting benefits of the bill: "I commend Sen. Cherry for her hard work on this legislation that will make technology available to courtrooms across Michigan to aid attorneys in their representation of their clients. This will help courts be more efficient, offer more options to attorneys, and it will make Michigan a national leader in the use of technology in the judicial system."

The version of the bill signed by Gov. Granholm contained a House amendment that allows for the testimony of any witness to be submitted electronically if deemed necessary by court magistrates. This discretionary caveat is expected to further streamline the examination process.

"Local cities and towns have more flexibility in addressing travel expenses," Sen. Cherry said. "Under this law, State Police, forensic technicians and expert witness can more effectively participate in the justice system."

To access photographs, go to www.senate.mi.gov/cherry/pr030404-1.htm.

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